

UTAH SPORTS AUTHORITY
PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)
November 25, 2008
10:00 a.m. (41 min. 22 sec.)

Attending: Commissioners: Alan Dayton, Rich Montanez, Taylor Leavitt and Ty McCartney
Secretary: Bill Colbert and guest, Steve Fossom of ICS.

Alan Dayton called the meeting to order.

Per Diem sheets were signed.

Approval of Minutes

Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of September 30 and October 28, 2008. Rich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None

Review Upcoming Events

UCE (MMA) – Friday, November 28, 2008 at Elevate, Salt Lake City

UCE (MMA) – there has been an e-mail request made for December events, pending applications – there will be a new venue for at least one event at Azteca, 3500 S. 3900 W. at 8 p.m. All other events begin at 9 p.m.

Rich mentioned that under rule R859-1-501, paragraph 5, requires a commission representative visit new venues prior to event. Bill indicated that Club Elevate has made some positive changes in the form of additional lighting and Mike Stidham's cage crew is setting up the cage closer to the stage. He also notified the commission that, with the 9 p.m. start time, inspectors are not getting out until 1 a.m.

Bill reported that there are three events scheduled for the January 16th weekend, two are out of town events. Bill will travel to St. George for a new promoter's event and will then travel to Richfield Saturday.

The recent rule change is in effect requiring that promoters cannot be under the influence of alcohol during their event.

Financial Report

Bill reported that the commission is 33% through the year and has expended about 32% of their budget. He indicated that if there is a budget cut the commission will have to address that shortfall to meet the budget cut back. Bill would like the commission to be able to keep ½ to ¾ of its revenue. There is anticipation of a major event in 2009.

Proposed Rulemaking – Implement Mandatory Hepatitis Testing for Contestants

After last month's presentation by the Utah Health Department on hepatitis, Bill added proposed language to Rule R859-150-1, paragraph 508. He sent the proposal to the Health Department for review of language. Rich is concerned about the expense to fighters. Bill will e-mail commissioners a copy of a table from the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) that shows which jurisdictions require hepatitis testing. Bill mentioned there are no instant or oral tests for Hepatitis right now.

Rich made a motion to move this proposed rulemaking to public comment. Taylor seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Rulemaking – Implementing an Amateur Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Program and

There has been a desire for some time to have an amateur program for MMA. The commission does have Utah modified rules in place but some contestants want to maintain their amateur status. Bill indicated that in statute the commission cannot issue an amateur license. Bill said it would be easy to track an amateur MMA program – only amateurs fighting amateurs. Compensation would be limited to reasonable travel and reimbursements.

Taylor made a motion to move this proposed rulemaking to public comment. Rich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of lifting the suspension of the Promoter's License for the Flash Academy, operated by Eddie "Flash" Newman

Rich requested this item to be placed on the agenda. Bill indicated that "Flash" is planning on doing an event in Price before Christmas.

Rich made a motion to lift Eddie "Flash" Newman's suspension or allow him to reinstate his promoter license under three conditions: 1) insurance is in place the night of the weigh-in, 2) the bond is in place one week before the fight, 3) commission impounds the purse the night of the weigh-in by cashier's check – not cash. Taylor seconds the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Discussion – No Action to be Taken

Steve Fossom of ICS presents to the commission as an amateur sanctioning body for MMA, kickboxing and Muay Thai; just as USA Boxing oversees amateur boxing. They hold 450 to 500 events a year of MMA and 150 events a year of kickboxing in North America. Their kickboxing organization been around since 1992 and their MMA organization, ISCF, has been around since 1999. They sanction both amateur and professional fights. Bill mentioned that under statute the PSUAC would still have to be the responsible agency and would oversee ICS. ICS earns revenues with sanctioning fees and fighter registration fees – not funded otherwise. They are the only amateur MMA or kickboxing sanctioning organization that has their own ranking system. They also have a detailed fighter database. They hold amateur tournaments for MMA and

kickboxing – largest organization for kickboxing and the only one for MMA. They also track suspensions on both IKF and ISCF on a public basis. Steve Fossom will e-mail the commission the links to their website.

Next meeting scheduled for December 23, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Ty made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Richard Montanez. Motion passed unanimously.